Some thoughts on Sullivan County woes

To the editor:

On Dec. 11, the Town of Sunapee hand carried Check No. 25474 to the offices of Sullivan County.

This check was made out in the amount of: \$2,490,077.

This represents almost 25 percent of the total budget to be raised by taxes from the towns within Sullivan County. Does anyone think this is fair? If so, please call and let the approximately 3,000 taxable entities within Sunapee know just how you can reasonably say this is a fair distribution.

In addition, just a week or so ago a staff writer of the Eagle Times reported on the meeting of the Executive Finance Committee of the Delegation.

Here it was said that the county commissioners needed to repay \$6.8 million borrowed since March 16 just to pay salaries and other bills. Thus, a huge portion of the taxes raised by the county on Dec. 17 is being used to pay off this debt leaving less than half of the taxes raised to pay off expenses next year. What a way to run a business. Who could survive in a world where each year we have to borrow just to meet day-to-day expenses? By the way, using the formula Sunapee is responsible for \$1.7 million of that debt.

We were told a short time ago that the delegation now has oversight on the county budget. Does that mean we don't have to worry? Or is it just too late? I think the barn door has been opened and not only have the horses run out but the cows, pigs, goats, sheep and chickens have fled and are nowhere in sight. What seems to amaze me is that there is no other entity complaining about such a budgetary mess. Even if you are not responsible for the larger amount billed Sunapee you each share some portion of this loss. I and many others urge the commissioners not to replace the manager who has just fled the same coop, but to hire a business agent with excellent business skills to start paring down the budget and to begin to ensure that we dig our way out of this hole. No other county in New Hampshire has a county manager. If we can solve this continuing problem every taxpayer in Sullivan County will bene-

> Stephen W. White Sunapee

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